(d) what are the future expansion plans of each of the exchanges; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to form or to convert the Madras Telephones into a Corporation like Bombay and Delhi, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The capacity of each Telephone Exchange in Madras City as on 31-12-1988 is given in Annexure-I [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 27].

(b) Details are given in Annexure-II [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 28].

(c) The waiting list as on 31-12-1988 in each exchange category-wise is given in Annexure-III [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 29].

(d) The expansion programme of each exchange is given in Annexure-I.

(e) There is no proposal for the formation of new Mahanagar Telephone Nigams at present.

Post Offices in rural areas of Orissa

636. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open post offices in rural areas in Orissa during the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The proposals for opening of new post offices are being processed.

Revision of pay scales of Telecommunication Technicians

637. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have withdrawn the recognition and the Trade Union facilities from the Bhartiya Telecommunication Technicians Union since September, 1988; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government had assured in March, 1988 the pay scales of Rs.1320-2040 for Technicians and Rs.1600-2600 for Technical Supervisors and had also agreed to finalise the same within six weeks; if so, what are the reasons for not implementing the decision so far;

(c) what is the estimated cumulative financial loss on account of the tool down, work-to-rule and other strikes of these technicians from February, 1988 onwards; and

(d) whether there is any proposal for reconciliation in the matter of revision of their pay scales and promotional avenues; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes Sir, the recognition was withdrawn on 12-9-88 due to the following reasons:—

(i) They launched an illegal agitation while ESMA was in force.

(ii) The demand for revision of pay scales was not justified as the Pay Commission examined these issues recently; and

(iii) The agitation was not justified as Conciliation Proceedings were in progress and they were explained the action being taken.

(b) No assurance was given to the effect that Pay Scales of Rs. 1320-2040 for Technicians and Rs. 1640-2600 for Technical Supervisors would be implemented.

(c) It is not possible to estimate the loss as the Services are maintained by diverting the staff from other units.

(d) There is no proposal for the revision of Pay Scales. However, there is a proposal for restructuring the cadres and consequently the revision of pay scales which is under active consideration of the Government.

Exploratory Drilling in Onshore and Offshore Basins in India

638. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of wels under exploratory drilling in onshore and offshore basins in India at present and what are the estimated hydrocarbons resources in each such wells;

(b) who is the licence holder for each such well and the agency engaged by it for exploratory drilling there;

(c) what is the period upto which drilling will continue at each well under contract at present;

(d) which are the onshore and offshore areas in the country where seismic activity is currently going on and what is the magnitude of such activity at each place; and

(e) what are the names of companies engaged by the each licence holder for seismic activity and the volume of business being handled by each one of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT):(a) to (e). The time and labour involved in collection of information may not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

639. [*Transferred to the 2nd March, 1989.]*

Feasibility Report about Thermal Power Projects submitted by Maharashtra Government

640. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted feasibility reports in respect of some Thermal Power Projects to be set up in that State;

(b) if so, what are the details of the same and whether they have been cleared by the Central Government; and

(c) what central assistance is proposed to be provided to those projects and by when they are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The requisite information in respect of Thermal Power Projects is contained in the statement annexed. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 30.]

(c) Central assistance is provided to the States in the form of block loans and block grants and is not related to any specific project / programme.

Setting up of Gas Based Power Plants in Maharashtra

641. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas-based Power Plants are functioning in Maharashtra;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative whether any schemes have been drawn up to set up such plants in the State; and

(c) if so, what are the details of those schemes and their expected power generating capacities?